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My Diary of 2004 Ride-In

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July 4, 2004 – My day started at 6 AM, traveling to Bonner Springs to meet with the rest of our group. Ride east wasn't too eventful, it was the same-o, same-o, been there, done that a number of times before. The day was going great and we were almost to our first stop in Mt Vernon, Illinois when it started raining. (What's new, of course it would rain.) It didn't start out bad, and we were almost there so kept going. Then it really started coming down. All I needed was a bar of soap and I could have had a shower. When we finally arrived at the motel in Mt Vernon I took my leather jacket off and found I had black stripes on one arm and leopard spots on the other. It really looked funny.

July 5, 2004 - Nothing exciting happened today. The weather was hot and the roads good, but like the day before, been there done that, so it was nothing new. The only thing different is I was cool because of the wet jacket.

July 6, 2004 - We got a late start this morning hoping to miss the rush hour traffic and still be in Canaan Valley by noon. The roads were GREAT, the kind we all love to ride. Round and about, up and down. Then it happened. My clutch cable broke. I've ridden before without a cable so I thought maybe I could make it to the Resort, but I made a wrong turn and the bike died. Then I couldn't get it going again. I had a cable replaced a couple of years ago and since it was only a little worn put it in my saddle bags in case I'd need it some day. Today was the day. We got the bike off the road to try and replace it. After looking, we decided we didn't really know what we were doing so Millie and Dorothy went on in to the Resort to see if they could find help. While they were off finding help I tried to get the thing apart, but found the tools that came with the bike weren't what I needed. While I was sitting there, another WOW member came by (Beth Forristall from Princeton, IL). She had the tools I needed, so I started to replace the cable. Then three more riders stopped (Brad Davis and Jay Hancock of Salem, NJ and Jason Hancock of Pennsville, NJ). The guys helped get it apart and were putting the other cable on when Millie arrived with help. The guys finished lacing the cable and I put the bike back together. We started off again, but the only gears I could get were first and neutral. I ended up riding about fifteen miles in first gear at 20 miles per hour. It was the longest fifteen miles of the entire trip. I finally made it to the Resort, checked into my room and found someone who could adjust my clutch.

Tonight I attended the Mixer. Reconnected with some old friends and met some new ones.

July 7, 2004 - They have us out in the sticks again this year which is both good and bad. Bad is the closest gas station is about five miles away. Good is the deer will come right up to us. It is something like a \$300 fine if you are caught feeding the deer, but I put my hand out and one came up and touched its nose to the palm of my hand.



This morning I attended the CD/SA meeting. We met the Candidates and listened to the General Membership meeting. In the afternoon, I went to the Prevent Further Injury, Preserving the Spine, and Rescue Breathing & Helmet Removal Seminars. They were great. We need to see if we can get training like this for the Kansas Chapters.

Oh yes, I was FROGed today.

July 8, 2004 - Today after breakfast I happened on the Survive! Seminar, it was very informative along with being entertaining. This evening was the Banquet and Awards Ceremony. There were so many people attending that the tables were a little tight. One of the ladies in the middle of the table noticed the deserts were right behind her and wanted to start dinner with desert. I was at the end of the table so I got up and cut her a piece of cheesecake. Then another lady at the end started cutting cake and passing it to our table so I helped her. If we hadn't gotten the cheesecake then, we wouldn't have gotten any at all. Afterwards, I went to the Lounge for a beer and a late chat with the friends I had met.

July 9, 2004 - This morning we were on the road at 7 AM. We decided to take Highway 50 back to St. Louis, so the ride this morning was another GREAT one with great riding roads. Everything was going good until we got to Cincinnati where we ran into a traffic jam and more rain. This time I found a place to stop and get out of the rain. The rain slowed and we decided to go and find a place to stay the night. I put my rain suit on and we were off again. Finally found a place to stop. Boy I'm tired. We covered about 411 miles today.

July 10, 2004 - 6:30 AM and we're off again. Thought I was in training for the "Iron Butt" today. I covered about 637 miles. We ran into a traffic jam in St Louis and almost couldn't get into the correct lane for our turn onto I-70. We also ran into a traffic jam and rain in Kansas City. Finally I pulled into my drive about 10 PM, glad to be home. I had a lot of fun and already looking forward to next year in Boise, Idaho.

What is it they say, "Any trip you can return from in one piece is a good one".